

Napier, and "consecrated this curious piece of furniture to the Society, desiring, however, that Dr. Rittenhouse should have the use and custody of it during his life, producing it occasionally when he thinks proper."

1797, June 16, the box was returned by the widow of Dr. Rittenhouse, and has been in the custody of the Society ever since.

The proceedings of the Board of Officers and Council were submitted.

Pending nomination No. 1049 was read.

On motion of J. Sergeant Price, it was resolved that the Secretaries be instructed to omit and withdraw from the publications of this Society, any paper which having been presented to it for publication shall have appeared elsewhere in print before the number of the Society's publication in which it is to appear shall have been distributed.

The rough minutes were read, and the Society was adjourned by the presiding member.

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*Stated Meeting, March 6, 1885.*

Present, 9 members.

President, Mr. FRALEY, in the Chair.

Donations for the Library were received from the Senckenberg Naturalist Society; the Society of Natural Sciences at Wiesbaden; the Zoölogischer Anzeiger; the Royal Academy of Sciences of Belgium; the Royal Academy dei Lincei; the Geographical Society at Paris; the Revue Politique; the Naval Observatory of San Fernando; the Royal Academy of History at Madrid; the Royal Astronomical Society at London; the Meteorological Council; London Nature; the Boston Society of Natural History; the American Journal of Science, Prof. Charles F. Chandler, of New York; the Young Mens' Association of Buffalo; Prof. C. A. Young; the Engineers' Club; the Franklin Institute; the Mercantile Library; Dr. Persifor Frazer;

Mr. Henry Phillips, Jr.; Mr. C. Davis English; Dr. D. Jayne & Son; the United States National Museum; the United States Geological Survey; the Department of the Interior; the Johns Hopkins University; Rev. Stephen D. Peet, of Chicago; the State Historical Society at Iowa City, and the University of California.

Mr Edward H. Weil, a newly-elected member, was presented to the Chair and took his seat.

Acknowledgments for Proceedings 117 were received from Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, &c.; The Peabody Museum (Cambridge, Mass.); Connecticut Historical Society; New Hampshire Historical Society; Rhode Island Historical Society; New Jersey Historical Society; Cincinnati Observatory; United States Military Academy at West Point, N. Y.; Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Philadelphia; Georgia Historical Society; Wisconsin Historical Society; United States Naval Institute at Annapolis, Md.; Essex Institute; Chicago Historical Society; University of the City of New York; American Antiquarian Society; Philosophical Society of West Chester; University of California; Public Library of New Bedford; United States Geological Survey (116, 117); Prof. J. W. Moore, Easton, Pa.; Henry Phillips, Jr., Philadelphia.

A letter was read from Mr. C. Stuart Patterson (dated Philadelphia, January 20, 1885), accepting membership in this Society.

Letter of envoy from the Meteorological Office (London, January, 1885) was read.

A letter was read from the Young Mens' Library, Buffalo, N. Y., accompanying an envoy of certain of its own publications and stating that it had not received any of the Society's Proceedings and Transactions since 1863. On motion it was ordered that they should be sent and that the Library should be continued on the list of the Society's exchanges.

The Scientific Library of the United States Patent Office requested all Transactions after Vol. XIII, which were ordered to be sent regularly as published.

The death of Mr. Samuel Powel was announced as having taken place at Newport, R. I., on March 5, 1885, in the sixty-seventh year of his age. On motion, the President was authorized at his discretion to appoint a member to prepare an obituary notice of the deceased.

The Committee on the Michaux Legacy was, on motion, reconstructed by the Society as follows: Thomas Meehan, Frederick Fráley, J. Sergeant Price, Aubrey H. Smith, and William M. Tilghman.

Nomination No. 1049 and new nominations Nos. 1050, 1051, 1052 and 1053 were read.

The rough minutes were read and the Society was adjourned by the President.

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*The Recent Danish Explorations in Greenland and their Significance as to Arctic Science in General. By H. Rink.*

*(Read before the American Philosophical Society, March 20, 1885.)*

No country appears to be better qualified to throw light on the problems of polar geography in general than Greenland. Unto its southern point, though reaching the latitude of Southern Norway, it thoroughly maintains an arctic nature. Its northern extremity has not as yet been explored; here it disappears in regions which hitherto have braved the efforts of the boldest discoverers. This extent from south to north offers a peculiarly favorable opportunity for establishing meteorological stations and for observing how organic life on the terra firma gradually succumbs to the severity of the climate. Here also human inhabitants in their struggle for existence have advanced further towards the pole, the utmost limit of their abodes not being as yet pointed out with certainty. Moreover the mountains of the Greenland coast contain fossil remains important for illustrating the conditions of the Arctic regions during an earlier geological epoch. Its interior can be considered as not yet visited by travelers, but nevertheless we know about it that in its central regions those masses of snow accumulate which, converted into ice as floating icebergs, are spread over the north western Atlantic, stragglers even reaching the latitude of Spain. Upon the northern hemisphere Greenland is the only country that provides the ocean with these enormous fragments, and it is the unbroken continental character of its interior part which enables it to afford the